

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
JONESBORO DIVISION

MELISSA MCKINNEY

PLAINTIFF

V.

CASE NO. 3:18-CV-00237-JTK

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DEFENDANT

ORDER

Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) seeking judicial review of a decision of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (Commissioner) denying her application for disability insurance benefits (DIB) and supplemental security income (SSI). (DE # 2) The Defendant filed an answer to Plaintiff's action on February 14, 2019, asserting that Plaintiff had not shown that reversal was warranted. (DE # 9)

Pending now before the Court is Defendant's Unopposed Motion to Reverse and Remand, pursuant to "sentence four" of section 405(g). (DE # 15) Specifically, the Commissioner states that remand is proper so that it may conduct further proceedings.

The exclusive methods by which a district court may remand a social security case to the Commissioner are set forth in "sentence four" and "sentence six" of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). A remand pursuant to "sentence six" is limited to two situations: where the Commissioner requests a remand before answering the complaint or where the court orders the Commissioner to consider new, material evidence that was for good cause not presented before the agency. The fourth sentence of the statute provides that "[t]he court shall have the power to enter, upon the pleadings and transcript of the record, a judgment affirming, modifying, or reversing the decision of the Commissioner of Social Security, with or without remanding the cause for a rehearing." 42 U.S.C. 405(g).

Here, the Court finds remand appropriate for the purpose of allowing the ALJ to further evaluate the evidence. Therefore, the Commissioner's motion is granted, and the case is reversed and remanded to the Commissioner for further administrative action pursuant to "sentence four" of section 405(g). This dismissal is without prejudice to Plaintiff's subsequent filing for attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED on this 17th day of April, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'O' followed by a series of loops and a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE